

CS97-55

4575 Ravinewood  
Commerce, MI 48382  
June 10, 1997

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

MAILED FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Federal Communications Commission  
Cable Services Bureau  
1919 M Street N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am writing to inform you and your organization of my disapproval, on the amount of gratuitous violence on the cable networks. A great deal of the networks, including the premium cables, have shows that contain violence. The majority of these stations air the violent shows after nine p.m. This letter does not pertain to those stations. My focus falls upon the networks that air violent shows between the hours of three p.m. to nine p.m. During this time period many children return from school or watch television after their evening dinner. Their command of the remote control, along with their naive viewing skills, makes them ideal targets for T.V. violence. With the approaching summer, children will have even greater access to the television and its harmful effects. The detrimental outcome of T.V. violence portrays itself through a number of studies. The growing rate of youth crime is one example. Over the past ten years the number of children arrested for murder increased by 55 percent. Perhaps the main reason for the dramatic rise is the increase in the number of violent acts and references on television. In 1977, nine out of ten T.V. shows contained some form of violence. Now, ten years later, the popularity of cable increased this amount. On the networks, America's children can watch ten acts of violence per hour, but cable supplies them with eighteen acts per hour. With the amount of time children spend watching cable, is it any wonder why youth crime is climbing?

The cause of the problem rests in the hands of the cable networks. One network, Cinemax, stood out as an prime source of violence. Cinemax airs horror films, usually, Wednesday at eight p.m. At this time a great deal of young children watch television before going to bed. The gory images are sometime their last experience before falling asleep. On Wednesday, June fourth, 1997, Cinemax showed Friday the 13th, Part V: A New Beginning. This film contains many violent and bloody scenes like most horror films. My problem with the film, centers on its air time. Any number of unsuspecting children could have viewed this movie. Along with these children, a number of young teens may have watched who did not care about the effects of the film. These teens relate to the film because the movie gives them the feeling of control. Camera angles allow them to view the movie through the eyes of the

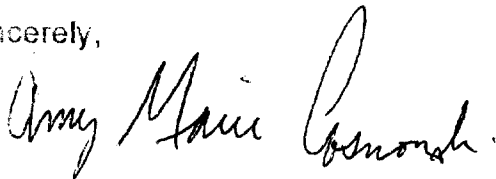
No. of Copies mailed  
List ABOVE

0

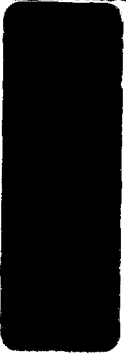
aggressor. This creates a feeling of power with in the teen. Along with this power comes a sense of excitement and enjoyment. These thrills allow them to link the idea of power with committing a crime. Horror films help desensitize teenagers to violence. Cinemax contributes again to the desensitization by showing action films in the eight p.m. slot. On Monday, June 9, 1997, they showed Money Train. This movie displays a great deal of violent acts, mostly against women. The violence against women helps children believe in the rape myth. The rape myth relates to the idea that women secretly wish to and desire to be raped and beaten. With movies like this shown during prime time, is it any wonder why 60 percent of men believe that women provoke rape, and why 30 percent believe it would benefit some women to be raped? This film brought up controversy while it played in the theaters. People modeled after the crime in the movie, and tried to burn subway attendants in New York. The children who could not see the rated-R movie in the theater could have watched on June 9th. Many kids in juvenile hall have admitted to copying their crimes from movies or television. If children continue to have easy access to horror films and action flicks, who knows how much the crime rate will rise?

Perhaps, to prevent youth violence from increasing, certain cable networks should be regulated. I understand that the FCC can only infringe so many restrictions on T.V. before they conflict with the first amendment. The networks should be allowed to control their programming and the content of their shows. But, the public also has a right to watch quality shows. A compromise may result with the reintroduction of the family hour, between the time of seven and eight p.m. This way both the public and the cable channels would benefit. The audience would enforce their control over the public airwaves and demand the helpful services the stations owe in return for using the air waves. The cable networks would gain audiences and still show their usual movie, but at different times. Another way to decrease the amount of television violence shown to children, is to increase viewer awareness. The new rating system for T.V. shows assists the portion of the public that understand the meaning of the symbols. If cable companies sent out explanations of the rating system, more parents could regulate their child's viewing habits. T.V. guides could also explain the system. The movie ratings are given for films in the guides, but the reasons for the ratings are not listed. If the movies also had the amount of violence, sex and language listed next to them, more people would see the harmful effects of mature television. The FCC, working with the public, can help reduce the amount of T.V. violence and teach America's youth the values of their ancestors, not the values of violence.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Amy Marie Cosnowski". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Amy Marie Cosnowski



RTN4 DK MI 480 DPM5 06/19/97 23:05



Federal Communications Commission  
Cable Services Bureau  
1919 M Street N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

23 1997

ROOM

QAR

